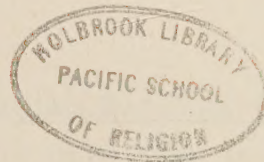


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Bishop Dibelius Says All Germans Share Eichmann's Guilt

(Berlin) - Dr. Otto Dibelius, Evangelical bishop of Berlin, has declared that all Germans share the guilt of former Nazi colonel Adolph Eichmann, who is being tried in an Israeli court on charges of delivering millions of Jews to annihilation camps during World War II.

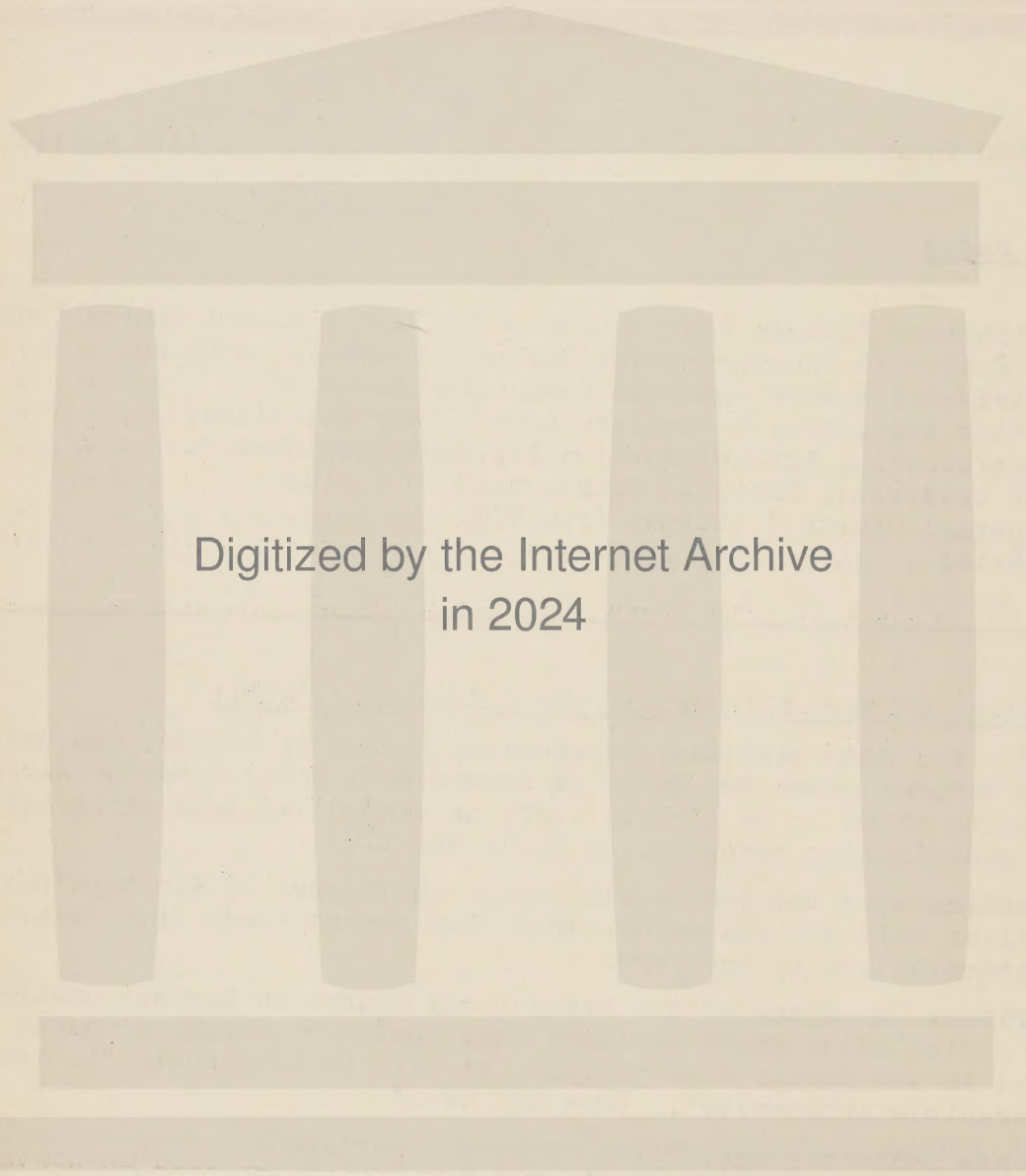
Speaking over the West Berlin radio on the eve of Eichmann's trial, Dr. Dibelius told his countrymen that they cannot evade complicity in the Nazis' extermination of the Jews.

Earlier, the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany unanimously adopted a resolution which declared that whatever punishment human justice metes out to the former Nazi officer, it will be inadequate "in the face of such incredible inhumanity". (See EPS No.8).

In his radio message, Bishop Dibelius declared:

"When the horrible deeds of Eichmann are discussed, the whole world will say: 'That is the way the Germans are.'

"We will not be able to answer: 'It was only a handful of Germans who in their insanity forgot all the commandments of God.'



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"The German people cannot exonerate themselves from the guilt of the mass murderer and his accomplices.

"They were men from our midst, of our blood, our kind, our people. Such a thing cannot be shoved aside.

"But one can do this - one can believe in the mercy of God, Who will not make us suffer for what has happened.

"We may believe that this guilt, so great that it cannot be comprehended, will be forgiven those who believe in Christ and His Cross."
EPS, Geneva.

Philippines Discuss Possibility of Forming National Church Council

(Manila) - Unofficial and informal talks have been going on here to explore the possibility of setting up a National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

No decision was reached but it was agreed to hold a further meeting at which three nominated speakers would set out what they understood to be involved in the setting up of such a council.

The Philippines already have a Federation of Christian Churches which has a long history of honourable service, but it does not include such churches as the Episcopal and some Philippine independent churches, some of which are members of the World Council of Churches.

The main reason why these churches have been reluctant to join the Federation is that it sets organic church unity as its ultimate objective. Also, it embodies in a rather definite way only one conception of the church and the type of programme it conducts is not always acceptable to those who have declined membership.

The talks that have been taking place have shown that there is a real eagerness in most quarters to take up the question afresh of a representative national council of churches without any prejudged attitude to Federation.
EPS, Geneva.

Dr. Fisher to Inaugurate New Anglican Province in Uganda

(Kampala) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, has stated that the new Church of Uganda and Ruanda-Urundi will be in fellowship with the Church of England when it is inaugurated as a new Anglican Province on April 16.

Dr. Fisher, touring the eight dioceses of the new province as a preliminary to the inauguration, told a gathering at Gulu in northern Uganda, that "independence is good if you understand what it means".

At the outset of his 12-day tour of the area, the archbishop told a press conference here that he was confident that Christianity will exert a "steadying influence" in the present African nationalist movements.

When a newsman pointed out that Moslem Africans outnumber Christians seven to three, Dr. Fisher said he wasn't disturbed by the ratio, and added: "If the church has done its job well, it doesn't stop to count how many are numbered in. The Anglican Church has been less identified with colonialism than any other thing the white man has brought to Africa".

The inauguration of the new province represents the last overseas tour Dr. Fisher will make prior to his retirement next month. It is the fourth province to be created since he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1945. The others were West Africa (1951), Central Africa (1955), and East Africa (1960).

Every Anglican diocese on the continent outside the Province of South Africa was under Dr. Fisher's direct jurisdiction when he became Primate of All England. The transfer of this jurisdiction to new and entirely selfgoverning provinces has been carried out on the archbishop's personal initiative.

EPS, Geneva.

EACC Told Nationalism Can Lead to Fanatical Religion

(Singapore) - The greatest impact that resurgent nationalism is having on people in the new countries is to make them acutely conscious of their own religion, Miss Mukerji, principal of Madras Women's Christian College, told an East Asia Christian Conference consultation on Education and the Mission of the Church which met here during Easter.

Miss Mukerji said that as Indians became increasingly conscious of India they became increasingly conscious of Hinduism also. Similarly, Ceylon is more conscious of Buddhism, Pakistan of Islam, and so on.

"The resurgence of religion may produce and encourage fanaticism," she went on. "Sometimes this fanaticism is rooted in an antagonism to some other religion. In the name of religion many have been deprived of even the right to live. This has happened in almost every country of the world and through all time. It is now our turn in the east to turn fanatics in the name of religion.

"But resurgence can take a good turn too. Consciousness of one's own religion may lead to an intelligent study of it. Far more Hindus are making a genuine effort to know and understand their own religion than they have done for a long, long time."

Miss Mukerji told the consultation that Christians, both foreigners and nationals, had bred a spirit of resentment by acting as "superior". She alleged that what the white man has done in the realm of the colour question, the Christian has done in the realm of religion.

She argued that nationalism is second only to Godliness and should be welcomed and encouraged. But like Godliness, it must be saved from pious sentiments and faced with the responsibilities it brings by its very existence.

EPS, Geneva.

Pentecostal Leader Commends Ecumenical Movement

(Minneapolis) - A leader of the Pentecostal movement - whose member Churches are not yet affiliated with the World Council of Churches - told the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship here that there is a growing recognition of the work of the Holy Spirit in the WCC and other ecumenical agencies.

The Rev. David J. du Plessis, former secretary of the World Pentecostal Council, reviewed his experiences in attending conferences sponsored by WCC agencies as an unofficial observer, and said he was certain that the ecumenical movement is "a creation of the Holy Spirit".

"Many critics thought I was foolish to dabble in affairs of the World Council", Mr. du Plessis admitted. "Now they see that it is moving in a direction they didn't expect."

The Pentecostal leader noted that recognition of the Holy Spirit as God is provided in the new theological basis of the World Council, which is expected to be adopted at its Third Assembly in New Delhi, India, November 18-December 6. He added that he has accepted an invitation to attend the assembly as an observer.

Mr. du Plessis informed the fellowship that three Pentecostal groups - two in Chile and one in Yugoslavia - have now applied for membership in the World Council.

Having attended the recent triennial Assembly of the National Council of Churches (USA) in San Francisco, Mr. du Plessis said he learned that there are now "hundreds" of ministers in denominations within the NCC who have experienced "speaking in tongues", a spiritual phenomenon usually associated only with the Pentecostal movement. EPS, Geneva.

Bossey Consultation Discusses International Ethos

(Geneva) - Some 30 officials of various international organizations met recently at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute at Bossey near Geneva to discuss ways in which Christianity could contribute to the formation of an international ethos or worldwide community spirit.

The delegates, including experts in international politics, international law and theologians, sought to discover ways in which such contributions would enable relations between nationals to develop in such a way that a solid basis for world peace would be established.

Lectures were delivered by Dr. Stanley Hoffman of Harvard University and Geneva, Professor Werner Kägi of Zurich, Professor E. Steinbach of Tübingen, and Professor K. A. Busia of Ghana and Leyden.

Stimulating debate followed the lectures which showed divergencies of opinion with regard to the interpretation of the present situation and to the fundamental conception of the entire problem. Efforts were made to acquaint delegates with the practical work which has to be accomplished in the field.

The consultation was organized jointly by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and the Ecumenical Institute. It was the first meeting held under CCIA auspices in connection with a major study on an international ethos, the preparation of which began several years ago. EPS, Geneva.

Churches Ask \$15,000 to help Cuban Refugees in Miami

(Miami, Florida) - The National Council of Churches' Division of Home Missions has voted to seek \$15,000 from member denominational groups for an emergency fund to help the Protestant Committee working among Cuban refugees in Miami.

These refugees are now arriving at the rate of about 125 daily and now number upwards of 60,000. They are crowding into Dade County where the jobless, apart from the refugees, number 30,300 and form 6.8 per cent of the population.

"This is the first time in this century that the US has been a country of first asylum for refugees," Dr. A. Russell Stevenson, of the Protestant Latin American Emergency Committee, has reported to the NCC.

"Most of the refugees are professional people and only 11 per cent are unskilled. The preponderance of lawyers, judges, doctors, medical technicians, and teachers points to efforts towards eliminating the upper and middle classes in Cuba.

"About 1,600 have been resettled in other US cities - more than 100 by Church World Service."

Dr. Stevenson added that 15 denominations in Miami are helping the Protestant Committee. Public schools have taken in 7,500 Cuban students, and more than 31,000 students of Spanish-speaking parents are now attending public schools - 13 per cent of the total enrolment. Miami university has set up special courses for refugee doctors and lawyers. The Miami Dental Society has begun a graduate course for dentists. EPS, Geneva.

British Anglicans, Methodists Seek Closer Relations

(London) - Further progress has been reported in establishing closer relations between the Church of England and the Methodist Church following a recent meeting between representatives of the two denominations at Exeter College, Oxford.

The representatives reported that the doctrine of justification by faith in relation to the doctrine of the ministry had been discussed. They said that "further progress was made in considering various theological and practical issues".

Another meeting will be held next September at Wesley House, Cambridge, at which the churchmen will discuss the question of tradition and apostolic succession. At least three more meetings are being planned for 1962.

Voicing the hope that "it will prove practical to present proposals to the two churches in 1963", they noted that delegates have been encouraged by reports of meetings for prayer and discussion which have taken place between Anglicans and Methodists in various parts of the country.

"We would again commend to Anglicans and Methodists everywhere", they said, "the importance of such local action and remind them of the pamphlet, 'Anglicans and Methodists Talk Together', which can serve as a basis for such gatherings." EPS, Geneva.

Discrimination Against Foreign Diplomats Deplored

(New York) - The Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches has deplored embarrassment in hotels, apartment houses and restaurants experienced by many diplomatic representatives to the United States and the United Nations.

The Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, DIA vice-chairman and presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, told the department's general committee that the independence of nine more African nations in 1960-61 and the establishment of diplomatic relations with them underlines the urgency of assuring that they do not encounter racial discrimination in the US.

"The main concern now," he said, "is the question of suitable housing in New York for UN delegates." He added that not only African delegates but many of those from the Middle and Far East also are encountering difficulty in renting apartments and houses.

Meanwhile, the US State Department has apologized to Dr. William Fitzjohn, chargé d'affaires of the African state of Sierra Leone, who was denied service recently at a Howard Johnson restaurant in Hagerstown, Maryland. The State Department is also preparing a letter demanding that the restaurant chain explain its policy on serving Negroes and that the company investigate the incident.

Dr. Fitzjohn attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and received his doctorate from Columbia University in New York. He has been in Washington for about 18 months as chief of the Sierra Leone mission.

Commenting on the incident, Dr. Fitzjohn said: "It was just the kind of thing I wanted to avoid. There is no getting around this: It hurts very much to have it happen."

EPS, Geneva.

Japan Lutheran Merger Timetable Established

(Tokyo) - Eleven of the 14 Lutheran bodies in Japan are expected to be united in October, 1962, climaxing nine years of merger negotiations.

A union committee composed of representatives of the 11 groups will hold its own final meeting on April 17 to give final approval to a constitution for the new church and recommend it to the uniting bodies for the acceptance.

The merger timetable then calls for a meeting of representatives of the various group on November 23 at which they will declare their intention to merge and elect a committee on preparations. They will also make final preparations on special arrangements, financial procedures, legal measures, and appoint a nominating committee. The actual constituting convention has been scheduled for October 31, 1962.

Missions not participating in the merger are those of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Church of the Lutheran Brethren in America and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The new church, whose name has not been chosen, would have a membership of about 13,000. Oldest and by far the largest of the united bodies is the 10,300-member Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC), which became autonomous in 1927. With it are associated the missions of the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA), the Augustana Lutheran Church, the Danish Missionary Society and the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland.

Most of the small Lutheran groups in Japan were started after World War II. The JELC was created as the result of the missionary work done by the ULCA beginning 69 years ago.

EPS, Geneva.

Methodists Urged to Establish "Open Door Policy" for Races

(Nashville) - A Methodist bishop of the all-Negro Central Jurisdiction has called for an "open door policy" in all of the denomination's schools, colleges, hospitals and homes "to the end that no person shall be denied admission, service, employment, job upgrading or placement on account of his race".

Speaking at the Methodist Orientation Conference on Race Relations here, Bishop Charles F. Golden of the Central Jurisdiction's Nashville Area, further called for "a halt to the practice of limiting church membership to persons because of their racial identity".

At the same time, he said the Methodist Church has a "moral obligation" to the people it serves to abolish the Central Jurisdiction.

"There is no doubt in my mind," he said, "that this symbol of segregation shall pass away. It is possible, however, that a more insidious form of segregation may take its place, but if it does it will not win Negroes to the Methodist Church nor will it help the cause of Methodism among the peoples of colour around the world."

The 1960 Methodist General Conference established a 48-member commission to work for an end of the Central Jurisdiction. It was authorized to study and recommend courses to action to "implement" use of an amendment adopted by the church's annual conference in 1958 permitting transfer of Negro churches into the denomination's five white geographical jurisdictions.

EPS, Geneva.

All Africa Consultation Studies Churches' Role in Towns

(Nairobi) - An All Africa Christian organisation is needed to co-ordinate, support, and make known the work of the Churches in the continent, reports the All Africa Urban Church Consultation which met recently in Limuru Conference Centre, Kenya.

It was argued that such an organization could provide consultations and specialists to meet particular challenges to the Church. It could give perspective and focus to the entire ministry of the work of Christ in Africa. And it could be a rallying point for still greater Christian activity.

Nine laymen and 24 pastors from 14 African nations and 14 denominational groups took part in the consultation, chaired by Dr. D. G. S. M'Timkulu, general secretary of the All Africa Christian Conference.

It was agreed that Africa needs a number of ecumenical centres. It was strongly felt that West Africa now needs a centre for study, research, consultations and conferences similar to the Mindola Centre in Rhodesia. Programmes of Christian lay training and refresher courses for the clergy would help to put such a centre to continuous use.

There is also an urgent need, the consultation decided, for better means of communication between and among Christians throughout the continent. There is scope for multi-lingual newspapers - one for West Africa in French, English, and Lingala; another for East Africa with Swahili and English editions; and a radio broadcasting station for the West Coast.

Other needs to which attention was called by the meetings are for industrial missions and chaplains, social workers, home and family experts, family problem counsellors, and similar specialists who can help the Church adjust its programme and organization to an industrial society.

It was agreed that secondary education must be extended. Several countries in Africa have no Protestant secondary schools preparing students for university matriculation. Mobile units at which books, religious literature, and audio-visual material could be bought were thought by the delegates to offer an effective means of evangelism.

Every country represented at the consultation spoke of the need for community centres, farm schools, workers' schools on all levels, hospitals, and more church buildings.

The report published by the consultation says that young people of the Volunteer Service Corps from Britain have been of such great help in many places that other, similar Christian workers are being eagerly requested from such organisations as the Church of Germany's Evangelische Hilfswerk and the US Peace Corps. But none of the Churches represented at the Consultation wishes to depend permanently on personnel from other countries. They desire to train more and more of their own people, both lay and ministerial.

EPS, Geneva.

Taiwan Christian Service Under Local Leadership

(Taipei) - Local leadership will now supervise the activities of Taiwan Church World Service which was reorganized here recently as Taiwan Christian Service at a meeting attended by 81 delegates from 37 denominations and 15 independent churches.

The Rev. Glen D. Graber of the Mennonite Mission was elected chairman of the new 16-member executive committee of the organization, which will continue its programme of distributing relief supplies and encouraging rehabilitation projects in Taiwan.

Taiwan Christian Service will now assume responsibility for the 17 regional committees of its parent organization and continue working through the 600 churches on the island that have been distributing free food and clothing to those on the government's list of needy families. It will also continue milk bars, feeding stations, sewing centres and educational work in the preparation of new kinds of foods, emergency relief work and aid to welfare institutions.

The relief service was organized six years ago to handle supplies sent through Church World Service, Lutheran World Relief, the World Council of Churches, and other agencies in Canada, Australia and Germany. Last year it distributed 20,420,972 pounds of milk, flour, corn meal, and rice, as well as 3,717 bales of clothing and 9,087 cases of meat.

EPS, Geneva.

WSCF Leadership Training Course held in Portugal

(Carcavelos, Portugal) - The first World Student Christian Federation leadership training course for Portuguese and Spanish students was held here recently in Union Theological Seminary.

Thirty participants, including students from Angola, Mozambique, and the Cape Verde Islands, took as their main subject of study "An Incarnation of the Christian Faith", considering the implications of the gospel for the contemporary world, the university, and personal and community life.

The programme also included training sessions for leadership in student Christian work, and round-table discussions by the students on the social, political, cultural, university, and spiritual life of their countries.

Among the leaders were Sr. Mauricio López, WSCF Secretary for Latin America, and the Rev. Jacques Maury, General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of France. EPS, Geneva.

Japanese Churchmen Discuss New Forms of Social Service

(Atami, Japan) - The suggestion that the Churches should set aside one day a year as "Social Work Day" was made at a recent consultation here on new forms of Service. Other suggestions included the setting up of a special Social Service Division of the National Council of Churches to study social issues; the publication of an Information Periodical; and further regular consultations.

The meeting was attended by 60 representatives of Christian service enterprises in Japan and brought in some of the foremost Christian sociologists, economists, and theologians in the country.

It was convened at the request of the East Asia Christian Council by Japan Church World Service under the authority of the Japan National Christian Council.

Two East Asia Christian Council secretaries - Mr. M. M. Thomas of India (Church and Society) and the Rev. Alan A. Brash of New Zealand (Interchurch Aid) addressed the consultation.

Mr. Brash, in his introductory speech, said that the chief purpose of the consultation was to bring together people who are actually engaged in various forms of Christian service as well as those who are responsibly related to the life of the nation. Both groups were asked, under the guidance of God's Word, "Is our present strategy of service the right one in view of the present situation in Japan and our fuller understanding of the implications of our faith? Are we understanding our Christian responsibility in the right way and directing our statements and our service operations to the right ends?"

Speakers insisted that when the Church talks about love as service it must avoid the trap of thinking that loving service is the same as cheap labour. The Church provides a place in the life of its congregations where members can learn about and discuss issues which confront the community. It must see it in the light of the revelation in Jesus Christ.

EPS, Geneva.

Norwegian Church Plans Model Farms in Africa

(Oslo) - Five model farms will be established in West Africa under the sponsorship of the Organization for Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the Church of Norway.

Before deciding on which state to establish the programme, the project leader will tour throughout West Africa. The plan is to employ three Norwegians with agricultural and horticultural experience on each farm.

Jacob Modalski, the project's managing director, has been in touch with the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization, Lutheran World Federation and numerous missionaries in the area. The programme will be carried out in close cooperation with other relief organizations and government officials in the state selected.

EPS, Geneva.

World Council Secretaries Visit Bulgaria

(Geneva) - Two members of the staff of the World Council of Churches made an informal visit to Bulgaria March 17-31. This was the first such visit to be made in some years.

They were the Rev. Francis House, WCC associate secretary and director of the Division of Ecumenical Action, and Miss Lois Meyhoffer, secretary for self-help project, health and literature of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees.

They were received by His Holiness Patriarch Cyril and members of the Holy Synod. They also called upon Mr. Kutschukov, Minister for Questions of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and Religious Cults at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The WCC staff members attended services at Orthodox cathedrals and at a Protestant church. They stayed at a number of monasteries and convents and visited the theological academy at which Mr. House was invited to deliver a lecture. The "Stalin" dam, a large cooperative farm, and hospitals and nurseries at Sofia were also visited.

The WCC staff members said they enjoyed the opportunity to see something of the life of the churches and people of Bulgaria; that they had been very warmly received, and that they hoped that there might be more frequent contacts and exchanges with the Bulgarian churches.

EPS, Geneva.

German Christians Show Interest in Modern Bible

(Hamburg) - Publication of the New Testament portion of the New English Bible has spurred the interest of many German Christians for a similar translation in their own language, according to a survey conducted by the weekly Welt am Sonntag (The World on Sunday).

"A mere polishing up of Luther's version is not sufficient to meet the acute needs of modern man," remarked Dr. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff, president of Kirchentag, or the German Church Day Congress.

Similarly, Dr. Kurt Scharf, chairman of the council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, commented that "a modern, convincing translation" is needed that would be generally recognized among German-speaking people.

"We need it especially for the youth and also for Bible readers who do not belong to any strongly defined church tradition," Dr. Scharf said. "This would go hand-in-hand with the Lutheran Bible which today is still valid and irreplaceable."

Dr. Heinrich Meyer, bishop of Lübeck, also cited the need for a completely new translation since "more than 90 per cent of the passive church members" no longer have any real personal access to the text of Luther.

Welt am Sonntag also reported that Roman Catholic Suffragan Bishop Johannes von Rudloff commented that a modern translation could, in his opinion, be used for readings in worship services and as a basis for sermons, if it was born out of an awareness of the corpus of German literature and met the requirements of a language serving sacred purposes.
EPS, Geneva.

Austrian Church Approves Protestant Law Proposal

(Vienna) - The General Synod of the Evangelical Church in Austria has approved a draft of a new Protestant law which is expected to be submitted to Parliament shortly for final adoption.

At an extraordinary session, the synod unanimously agreed that the bill marks a turning point in the relations between the State and the Evangelical Church. Its adoption will mark the end of an attempt started in 1920, and continued after World War II, to define the legal relationship between the State and the Church.

Although the contents of the bill have not yet been made public, it is known that complete freedom and the unrestricted right of self-determination are guaranteed. It further provides that State supervision of the churches will cease, but financial assistance will be continued.
EPS, Geneva.

Transvaal Church Withdraws from World Council

(Pretoria) - The Dutch Reformed Church of Transvaal, one of the two Dutch Reformed bodies in South Africa affiliated with the World Council of Churches, has voted to withdraw from the international ecumenical organization.

The decision was made because the majority of synod members disapproved of the results of a consultation on race relations conducted last December in Johannesburg under WCC auspices. At that time, 10 representatives of the Transvaal church participated in drafting a statement condemning racial discrimination which was approved by 80 per cent of the delegates present.

The consultation statement, which was largely based on memoranda submitted by the Dutch Reformed delegations, was strongly criticized later in both the religious and secular Afrikaans press as being too "liberal" and at variance with official governmental policy.

Commenting on the withdrawal of the Transvaal church, Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, said:

"We regret deeply that the Transvaal Dutch Reformed Church has decided to leave our fellowship, but we do not regret that the consultation in Johannesburg has made a clear Christian witness about justice in race relations. And we will want to maintain the fullest possible fellowship

with all those in South Africa in member churches and in other churches who are working for the realization of a truly ecumenical conception of the Church and for a constructive, peaceful and just solution of the race problem."

Before voting to withdraw from the WCC, the synod heard from its delegates to the Johannesburg consultation.

A former moderator, the Rev. C. B. Brink, refused to concede that his attitude had been wrong, although he pointed out that he had not voted on certain issues at stake because he could not find an answer to his conscience.

The Rev. C. F. Beyers Naudé, a former member of the church's moderation, told the synod that he still associated himself with the decisions reached by the consultation. He said it was necessary that a policy which affected non-whites had to be Christian and acceptable to both whites and others alike.

The Transvaal church, which also reaffirmed its "historical policy of differentiation" between races, is the second Dutch Reformed body in the Union to withdraw from the WCC. Earlier, the Dutch Reformed Church of Africa, one of the smaller Dutch Reformed groups, severed its connections, although an active minority in this church has constantly protested against the racial exclusiveness of their denomination. (See EPS No. 13).

Meanwhile, the special political committee of the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution condemning the apartheid policies of the South African Government. Voting in favour of the resolution were the nations of the British Commonwealth, from which the Union will formally withdraw next month.

EPS, Geneva.

EKU Defines Status of Refugee Pastors from East Germany

(Berlin) - The Council of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) has agreed that East German pastors who left their work there without ecclesiastical permission may serve as religious instructors in member churches of the Rhineland and Westphalia provided they have the approval of local church leaders.

Earlier, the Emergency Association of Protestant Pastors and Church Workers from East Germany appealed to Bishop Martin Haug of Württemberg, to advocate the integration of refugee clergymen into the churches of West Germany "in the interest of the Church and of the many churches without pastors". (See EPS No. 3).

Church regulations have prohibited the employment of ministers who left the East Zone unless they received permission to do so by their churches. This step was taken because of a lack of pastors in East Germany.

EPS, Geneva.

In Brief

The United Bible Societies has reported that portions of the Bible have now been translated into 1,165 languages. At least one book of the Bible was translated into 14 more languages or dialects last year. In addition, the organization said that worldwide circulation of the Scriptures reached a record height in 1960.

* * *

In Washington, President John F. Kennedy has appointed Dr. James H. Robinson, prominent Negro pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Master in New York, as one of four vice-chairmen of the National Advisory Council for the Peace Corps. Long active in promoting better race relations, Dr. Robinson is director of Operation Crossroads, a private programme in which American college students spend their summer vacations working on development projects in African villages.

* * *

Dr. Achmen Sukarno, President of Indonesia, has been invited to address the Centennial celebration of Lutheranism in the country which will be observed next fall. The main celebration will take place October 7-8 at Tarutung and will be attended by representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. The 741,304-member Batak Protestant Christian Church is the largest Christian body in Indonesia and the largest Lutheran communion in Asia. Christian work in the country was started by Rhenish German missionaries of whom the most outstanding was Ludwig Nommensen, called "the apostle to the Bataks".

* * *

The Swiss Evangelical Church Federation has asked all of its member churches to give their opinions by October 21st on the establishment of an international Protestant radio station in Switzerland. As a first step, the Geneva National Church "confirmed the financial consequences" of establishing such a station, at a meeting of the Consistory.

* * *

A fourth Swedish woman theologian will be ordained by Bishop Ruben Josefson in Rärnösand in May. The future woman minister of the Lutheran Church is 24-years-old. During her theological studies she also followed courses at the Social Institute in Stockholm, where she is now working as an assistant professor. Bishop Josefson stated, in a radio speech, that the three previously ordained women ministers had already fully proved themselves in their new ministry in the Swedish church.

* * *

The Vatican has altered its attitude toward Italian Protestants, according to leading figures in the Waldensian Church. Superintendent Ernesto Ayassot said "a wind of peace from Rome" has blown for the past few months. This change is linked with preparations for the forthcoming Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council, he indicated. In some places, it has even resulted in direct contacts between Roman Catholic and Protestant church leaders.

EPS, Geneva.